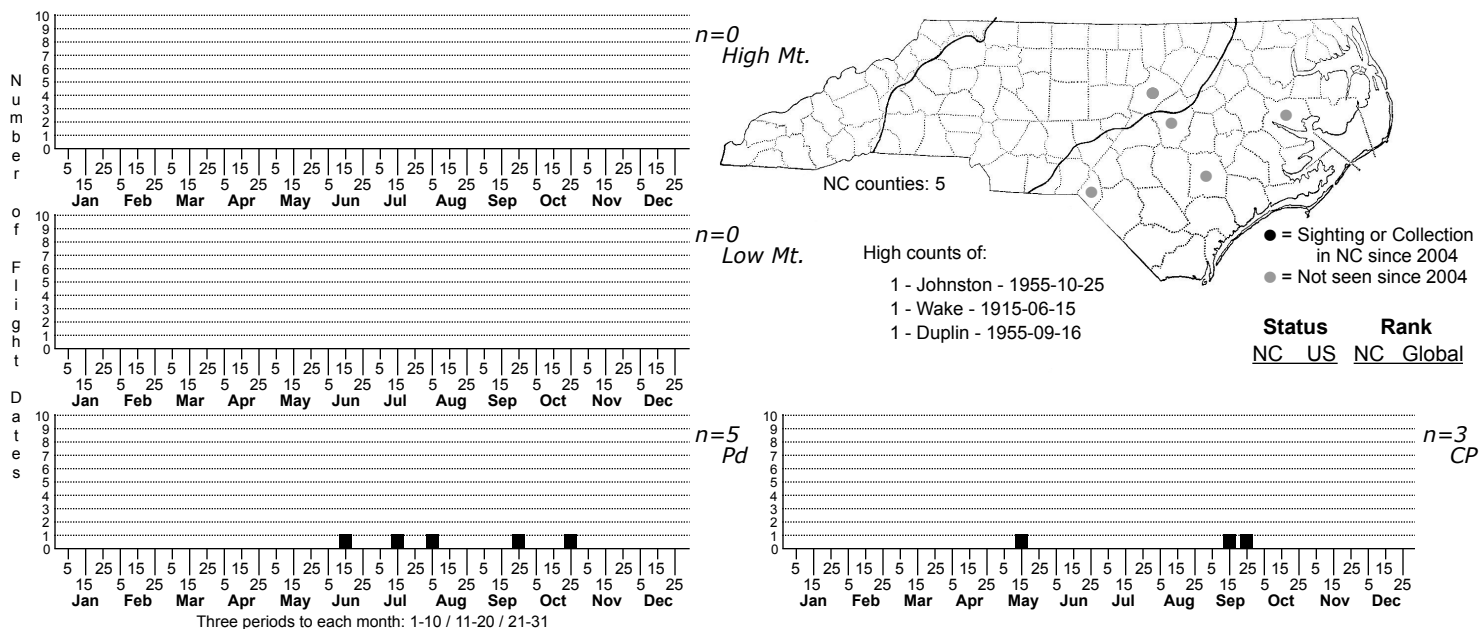


## *Cisthene tenuifascia* Thin-banded Lichen Moth



FAMILY: Erebiidae SUBFAMILY: Arctiinae TRIBE: Lithosiini

TAXONOMIC COMMENTS: One of twenty species in this genus that occur in North America, five of which have been recorded in North Carolina

FIELD GUIDE DESCRIPTIONS: Covell (1984)

ONLINE PHOTOS: MPG, Bugguide, BAMONA

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, ADULTS: Forbes (1960)

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION, IMMATURE STAGES: (None)

ID COMMENTS: Blackish brown with an orange line along the inner margin that strongly narrows before it reaches a similar line that crosses the postmedian area of the forewing; hindwing is mainly pink with a dark apex; males have a well-developed lobe at the anal margin of the hindwing that is missing in other members of this genus (Forbes, 1960). Similar to *C. kentuckiensis* but the line along the inner margin in that species is confluent with postmedian band.

DISTRIBUTION: Records exist only from the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain

FLIGHT COMMENT: Too few records exist to determine a pattern, but there may be either two flights or one extended flight from late spring to the fall.

HABITAT: No information is available on the habitats at sites where collections were made

FOOD: Like most Lithosiines, probably feeds on lichens, bark algae, and Cyanobacteria (Covell, 1984; Wagner, 2005).

OBSERVATION METHODS: Labels for most of the NCSU specimens do not contain any information about collecting methods, although there are at least a couple that state that light traps were used, although no details about the light sources were given.

NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM RANKS: G5 [S2S3]

STATE PROTECTION: Has no legal protection, although permits are required to collect it on state parks and other public lands; should be placed on the NHP Watchlist

COMMENTS: This species was previously collected in North Carolina from a number of sites in the eastern Piedmont and Coastal Plain. It was not captured, however, in any of the intensive surveys we have conducted in those regions since the early 1990s, nor in surveys conducted elsewhere in the state. This species may have always been rare in our area, at least compared to the Midwest, where it can be common, but the reasons for the lack of recent records are completely unknown.